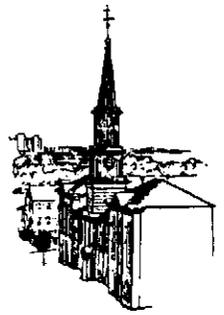


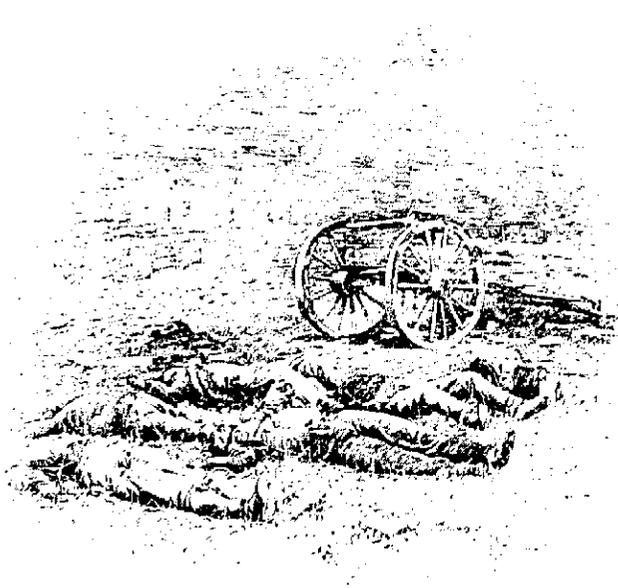
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Volunteers for Freedom: Black Civil War Soldiers in Alexandria National Cemetery, Part II

by
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The Casualties

Thirty-nine regiments are represented among the black soldiers in the National Cemetery. Two of these units were not organizations of U.S. Colored Troops but white regiments in each of which a

soldier of color served and later died in Alexandria. Pvt. James Davis, a member of the Twenty-fourth New York Volunteer Cavalry, enlisted at Buffalo in mid-January 1864. Ordered south six months later, the regiment was part of General Grant's offensive against Richmond. Davis was wounded on the first day, (18 August 1864), of the Union advance on the Petersburg and Weldon Rail Road. His injury was a gunshot wound in the right foot. Evacuated to L'Overture hospital a few days later, Davis died of infection or loss of blood on 7 September. The hospital ordered that he be buried in "No. 1 Colored Row" of presumably the Freedmen's Cemetery. Davis was not a black man but rather a Native American; the record of his interment is marked "Indian." Pvt. Henry Morton, Fifty-sixth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, enlisted at Boston in December 1863. In April 1864, the regiment joined Grant's offensive, but Morton was marked as a deserter from that month on. He may, however, have been a patient in the army's hospital system for the entire time, finally being admitted to L'Overture hospital in mid-December 1864 for treatment of an intermittent fever. He died on 9 January 1865, the autopsy revealing that a congested lung was the cause of death. He was buried in the Military Cemetery in the area reserved for black troops, but there is no indication in his records that Morton was an

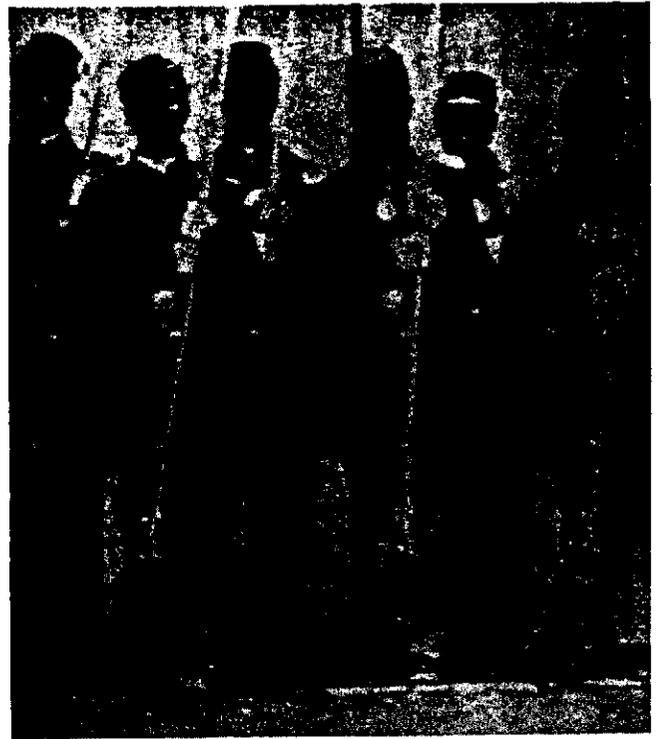
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African American. He may have been a Native American or a black man enlisted without prejudice in liberal Massachusetts.

Many USCT regiments lost one man or only a handful of soldiers in the Alexandria hospitals because their casualties were directed to other cities and hospital facilities, and some units just passing through the town left a few men behind. The regiment losing the largest number, 33, of its soldiers in Alexandria was the Twenty-third U.S. Colored Infantry, the single black regiment raised in Indiana. On duty at Camp Casey in Arlington, Virginia, from late April 1864 to early June, the Twenty-eighth was assigned to the Army of the Potomac for General Grant's advance on Richmond. Six of its men died in Alexandria of gunshot wounds, three of them were injured at the mismanaged Battle of the Crater on 30 July 1864, after the Union Army exploded a huge mine under Confederate positions protecting Petersburg. Pvt. Adolphus Jacobs was one of these soldiers. Shot through the hips, he wrote home from Alexandria a month later: "I have never got over the hurt i received at the Charge at petersburgh but i am as Well as far as health is Concerned as i ever was." But he did not recover, one of Jacobs's comrades telling his mother that the wounded man died in late August even though "he stood his Wound as brave as a lion."

The greatest number of combat casualties hospitalized in Alexandria were wounded at the 30 July 1864 crater fight. Nine USCT regiments participated in this battle. Many amputees died in L'Overture hospital, but a few soldiers with seemingly minor wounds also succumbed. In addition to the Twenty-eighth Infantry's three dead, the other regiments and their crater losses were:

- Nineteenth USCI - Pvts. James W. Barton (gunshot wound [GSW] in shoulder), Daniel Mathews (flesh wound), William Short (GSW in shoulder), George Stephens (GSW in thigh), Lawrence Stewart (several wounds, thorax and back), and John



Soldiers of the 107th US Colored Infantry, a regiment raised in Kentucky, photographed in Arlington, Virginia, circa 1865. (Library of Congress).

- Woolford (leg amputated).
- Twenty-third USCI - Pvts. William Jones (leg amputated) and John H. Willis (arm amputated).
- Twenty-seventh USCI - Pvt. Jackson Anderson (GSW hip and hand).
- Twenty-ninth USCI - Sgt. Michael Duffin and Cpl. Reuben Wilson (both with leg amputations).
- Thirtieth USCI - Pvts. James Gordon (GSW in thigh) and James W. Johnson (leg amputated) and Cpl. Eden Posey (leg amputated).
- Thirty-first USCI - Cpl. Gideon McCall (GSW in hip, side, and hand) and Pvts. Alexander Peterson (face wounds) and James H. Peterson (GSW in shoulder).
- Thirty-ninth USCI - Pvts. Andrew Brown (flesh wound) and James H. Wilkinson (GSW in knee and shoulder).
- Forty-third USCI - Pvts. James

Gateford (GSW in pelvis) and George Johnson (GSW in shoulder and arm).

The regiments at the crater had more soldiers die of all causes at L'Overture hospital than all but one of the other units, the 135th U.S. Colored Infantry, which was largely raised after the war. It left 22 men in Alexandria, all of them victims of disease.

Post War Veterans

The stories of the black Civil War soldiers now interred in the Alexandria National Cemetery are short because most of these men were former slaves who were unable to read and write. Documentation of the pre-service lives of deceased soldiers and their dependents is largely limited to the Compiled Service Records, folders begun at enlistment containing notes on date and place of enlistment, age, place of birth, and prior occupation. These records seldom contain original documents, such as enlistment forms, but consist of annotated cards made up in the 1890's when mentions of soldiers in other records were consolidated into one file per soldier. The compiled service record usually shows promotions to noncommissioned officer rank, reductions, results of courts-martial, papers relating to substitute agreements, pay matters, history of hospitalization, and death records. The latter were prepared by army physicians and include results of autopsies, causes of death, marital status, post office address of next of kin, and burial information. Occasionally, correspondence pertaining to a soldier will be included. One revealing set of documents is affidavits and related papers by which loyal slave owners sought to collect the bounty for their property. For the most part, no single record is complete and reliable. For example, places of birth vary since many black enlistees had been moved from place to place during the years of their bondage, and many knew no more than the name of their native state. Ages are wildly inaccurate because slaves had imperfect knowledge of this, and so recruiting agents determined it based on the new soldiers' appearance. Of course, some black men were not

aware of their full name and may have had only a first name. A few took the last name of their owners, their fathers' or other persons.

Except for occasional notations on death certificates and hospital patient cards, the marital status of a soldier was not a part of a soldier's military record. When a soldier known to be married died in service, there was no formal procedure to notify the widow or to identify the children of the marriage. Many soldiers' widows heard informally of their loss from returning veterans late in or after the war. Few received a note from one of the soldier's company officers.

Part of this apparent neglect — if not callousness — can be explained by the fact that there was no government system to allot a portion of the soldier's salary to his family, although some states sent agents to the regiments in the field charged to collect and pay out a soldier's voluntary contributions. Often nothing is known about a deceased soldier's family unless an application for a government pension was filed. Since dependents of black soldiers were usually as unlettered as the soldier himself, it was not automatic for a pension to be requested. The government did not seek out the widow and children, but fortunately pension agents, who charged a small fee for filing, made a business of locating survivors and, for that matter, sick or disabled living soldiers.

The law in force for most of the war was the "general law pension system," approved by President Lincoln on 14 July 1862. It provided that a pensionable injury had to be a direct consequence of military duty, and widows, children, and other dependent relatives could be pensioned if the death of the soldier was directly attributed to injuries or disease contracted on active service. Payments depended on the rank of the soldier and a doctor's determination of the percentage of disability for manual labor. Widows received \$12 monthly plus \$2 for each child under the age of sixteen.

Twenty-five years after the end of hostilities it was no longer necessary to demonstrate that a disabling condition was the result of military service. The *Disability Pension Act of 1890* provided pensions if it could be determined that the former soldiers were sufficiently infirm to "incapacitate them from the performance of manual labor to such a degree as to render them unable to earn a support." Veterans over 62 years of age were pensioned some time later on the presumption they could not work for a living. Payments were graduated for percentage of disability; need was not a factor. Widows and orphans were pensioned regardless of the cause of the soldiers' deaths. The 1890 law provided a widow with \$8 a month (plus the \$2 per minor child), less than the 1862 "general law" payment. The 1862 law remained in effect and sometimes provided a higher pension than did the 1890 legislation, so applicants (and their dependents) often claimed that disabilities (or death) were caused by in-service injuries or diseases. The 1890 law was subsequently further liberalized, creating a continuing flow of pension applications from Union veterans.

Pension application files in the National Archives provide the best record of the individual black soldier, but they must be used with caution because soldiers or their dependents sought to maximize disabling conditions or prove a service-connected death. Standard government forms sought biographical information beyond that provided in military service records. In the case of disability applicants or even those seeking payments for advanced age, the files reveal places of residence, family status, occupation, and some prewar details. These files contain many physician and examiner reports, and they include affidavits from comrades describing their recollections of events in which a soldier might have been disabled and from neighbors testifying about the degree of disability. Most of these files are virtually identical, perhaps the obvious result of coaching by the claims agent preparing the application (who was only paid if a pension was awarded). Widows' applications chronicle the problems former slaves had proving marital status and sometimes contain

rare letters and other documents. Examiners of the Bureau of Pensions of the Department of the Interior were thorough, demanded substantial proof, and often detected fraud. In general, pension files contain some of the best information on the soldiers' lives, because black regiments were composed mainly of illiterate men who left few other records.

Correcting the Record

Listing the names of the soldiers interred in Alexandria Cemetery is a challenge because the cemetery's records are often incorrect. The first roster of the buried soldiers was compiled by the army's quartermaster department in mid-1865. The *Alexandria Roll of Honor*, dating from 1866, contains the names of 228 black soldiers, including a number of duplicates. Nearly every one of these entries contains errors in the spelling of names, in regimental identification, and only occasionally shows the actual date of death. The cemetery also has a single form on each soldier, but these records usually reflect the same errors as in the quartermaster's roll, although there are more accurate forms for those Civil War veterans buried after hostilities and into this century. To determine correct information for the black soldiers, the names on all headstones were copied. These usually contain only name and rank and lack regimental numbers and date of death. With this information it was possible to correct some entries on the quartermaster's listing, but many regimental assignments could not be verified. The quartermaster recorded dates of interment, not dates of death, so, for those soldiers who died before burial of blacks was allowed in the Soldiers' Cemetery, other sources of accurate data were needed. Individual Compiled Service Records usually contain a death certificate made out by a hospital surgeon which includes date of death, date and place of burial, and regiment identification. Finally, pension records provided better details on many of the soldiers.

These various cross references of several types of records do not provide a complete identification of

every soldier. For example, six unknown black soldiers are in the cemetery, and another two soldiers, perhaps black, were executed for desertion and were interred with Confederate soldiers buried in the National Cemetery (the rebels' bodies were moved to Christ Churchyard in 1879). Some recruits for U.S. Colored Troops were not entered on the rolls of regiments, many because they became ill and were unable to report to their companies where their military records would begin. Some unassigned recruits did accumulate a military record and later applied for pensions, or their dependents petitioned for payments. For these soldiers as much is known as for soldiers with long service, but for others, background and military service events cannot be found.

The appendix to this paper is a roster of 277 black soldiers from the Civil War period (with perhaps a few veterans of other conflicts). It corrects the inaccurate 1866 *Roll of Honor*. The total reflects burials over the years since the army inventory of 1875 that counted 249 African Americans and 3,237 white soldiers in the burial ground. Newer veteran burials have not followed the segregated procedures used earlier, and one finds white soldiers and sailors among their black comrades. Black soldiers from other wars and from peacetime service are honored there but are not identified by race.

The Alexandria National Cemetery is at full capacity and, with few exceptions, not open for future interments. The grounds are well-maintained, but there is no longer a resident manager and the facility is being supervised by the director of Culpeper National Cemetery. Black Civil War veterans remain in their separate section and are seldom honored by the City despite the fact that a number of these veterans were Alexandria natives or spent their post-service lives here. The Alexandria American Legion Post 24, however, has long held a Memorial Day commemorative ceremony at the cemetery. On the other hand, in June 1997 and again in 1998, the Alexandria City Council proclaimed a week of remembrance of the Freedmen's (Contraband) Cemetery and has

promised an annual commemoration. The Freedmen's site itself is largely under an automobile service station, its boundaries are not surveyed, and its future is uncertain due to planned highway and bridge construction. Whether the federal government or any other jurisdiction has a responsibility for preservation of what might be found of the Freedmen's Cemetery is not clear because the army used the land without acquiring title to it, abandoning interest sometime after the last burial about 1868. One might speculate that the Alexandria National Cemetery, an important relic of Alexandria's role in the great national contest of the Civil War, deserves at least comparable official attention.



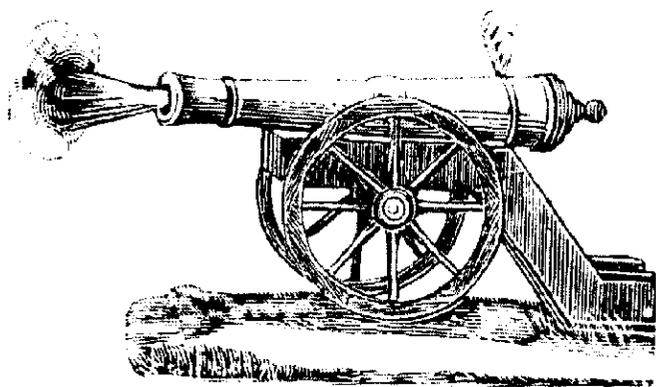
Appendix: Black Soldiers Buried in Alexandria's National Cemetery			
Name	Rank	Regiment	Date of Death
Adams, Smith		27 USCI	26 May 1864
Allan, Alexander		102 USCI	1 April 1865
Allen, Henry		23 USCI	3 December 1902
Allgood, John		28 USCI	29 December 1864
Alsop, Joseph		30 USCI	5 November 1864
Anderson, Alexander		2 USCCav	5 October 1906
Anderson, Alexander		39 USCT	8 October 1864
Anderson, Edward		5 MassCCav	11 August 1895
Anderson, Jackson		27 USCI	16 August 1864
Anderson, John		5 USHArt	18 August 1865
Anderson, Richard		23 USCI	11 August 1864
Armstrong, James		28 USCI	17 September 1864
Artist, Moses M.		27 USCI	25 May 1864
Ashton, Eugene	WWI?	1 Band	16 October 1925
Ballard, John	Sgt.	23 USCI	14 April 1903
Bristleton, Robert		43 USCI	23 August 1864
Browder, John		29 USCI	19 March 1865
Brown, Andrew		39 USCI	16 August 1864
Brown, James		19 USCI	25 November 1864
Brown, John		41 USCI	24 May 1931
Brown, Lewis		30 USCI	10 December 1864
Burden, Henry		28 USCI	2 September 1864
Burke, William		Unknown	28 April 1866
Burdickson, Daniel		28 USCI	15 January 1865
Burnett, Isaac		107 USCI	about 7 July 1864
Campbell, Benjamin		107 USCI	16 February 1866
Campbell, John H.		28 USCI	12 August 1864
Canere, Stephen		Unknown	4 December 1864
Carnell, Israel		8 USCART	22 April 1865
Carr, Asa		36 USCI	21 May 1865
Carr, Joseph		23 USCI	18 April 1865
Carroll, George		1 USCI	20 April 1893
Carter, Champ		5 MassCCav	26 September 1904
Carter, Edward		1 USCI	2 January 1904
Carter, Henry	Cpl.	29 USCI	18 October 1901
Chambers, David		27 USCI	15 August 1865
Christopher, John		23 USCI	30 November 1864
Clay, William H.		28 USCI	9 April 1865
Cleggett, Charles H.	Cpl.	28 USCI	18 June 1864
Clemens, William H.	Cpl.	28 USCI	4 July 1864
Coleman, William		39 USCI	1 July 1864
Coleman, Washington	Cpl.	135 USCI	3 July 1865
Collins, James		43 USCI	18 November 1864
Color, Ansberry		135 USCI	about 22 August 1865
Conyer, Benjamin		39 USCI	4 December 1864
Cook, Benjamin Jr.		28 USCI	24 December 1864
Cooley, John		27 USCI	5 May 1864
Cooper, Lewis		19 USCI	30 November 1864
Council, Jerry		28 USCI	1 May 1865
Criff, Garrison		30 USCI	about 20 March 1865
Cross, Robert	Cpl.	8 USCART	4 July 1865
Crow, Harvey		102 USCI	10 April 1865
Dashiell, Louis		30 USCI	7 March 1865

Name	Rank	Regiment	Date of Death
Davis, James		24 NYCav	7 September 1864
Davis, Nathan		5 MassCCav	4 March 1893
Day, Nicholas		19 USCI	11 August 1864
Diller, William		30 USCI	15 December 1864
Dixon, Jacob		31 USCI	14 November 1865
Dorsey, Solomon		39 USCI	27 November 1864
Duffin, Michael	Sgt.	29 USCI	30 August 1864
Dyer, Peter		43 USCI	5 February 1865
Eastner, Adam		135 USCI	3 June 1865
Elsie, Arthur		29 USCI	27 April 1865
Evans, Andrew		28 USCI	7 October 1864
Fields, James		30 USCI	27 May 1865
Fleming, Samuel		28 USCI	4 November 1864
Foster, George		1 USCI	16 May 1893
Garrison, Edward		31 USCI	20 June 1864
Gass, James		28 USCI	21 June 1864
Gateford, James		43 USCI	27 September 1864
Gadson, James		5 MassCCav	22 December 1864
Glover, Christopher	Cpl.	135 USCI	1 June 1865
Gordy, Henry W.		30 USCI	28 September 1864
Gordon, James		30 USCI	24 August 1864
Gordon, Henry		39 USCI	29 September 1864
Gorgo, Charles A.		102 USCI	about 20 January 1865
Gould, John		23 USCI	5 January 1865
Graves, Harry	Sgt.	107 USCI	23 June 1866
Green, John		23 USCI	17 August 1865
Green, Joseph		117 USCI	25 April 1865
Green, Thomas		28 USCI	28 May 1865
Gregory, Oscar		43 USCI	5 May 1865
Hacket, Henry		23 USCI	9 November 1864
Hall, John H.		28 USCI	19 February 1865
Hamer, Arthur		135 USCI	30 June 1865
Hamilton, Lewis	Sgt.	107 USCI	29 March 1866
Hamilton, Thomas		39 USCI	16 March 1865
Hampton, Wade		29 USCI	24 June 1864
Hansboro, Henry		unassigned	about 14 August 1865
Harney, George		28 USCI	19 June 1865
Harrison, Peter		23 USCI	17 May 1865
Helmes, Bennett		8 USCI	21 February 1865
Herbert, James		28 USCI	about 29 August 1865
Hill, Henry		135 USCI	8 June 1865
Holmes, Francis		135 USCI	3 July 1865
Horton, Frederick A.		31 USCI	5 December 1864
Houston, Alexander		30 USCI	4 July 1864
Howe, Henry		135 USCI	28 June 1865
Hubbert, David		29 USCI	22 July 1864
Hurse, Samuel		27 USCI	1 December 1864
Jackson, Augustus		31 USCI	12 May 1864
Jackson, Thomas		28 USCI	1 March 1865
Jackson, William A.		39 USCI	28 December 1864
Jacobs, Adolphus		28 USCI	31 August 1864
Jacobs, George W.		19 USCI	19 March 1865
James, John		Unknown	23 August 1864
Johnson, Frank		135 USCI	6 June 1865

Name	Rank	Regiment	Date of Death
Johnson, Frisby		Unknown	15 December 1864
Johnson, George		43 USCI	18 August 1864
Johnson, Henry		39 USCI	8 July 1864
Johnson, James W.		30 USCI	22 November 1864
Johnson, Robert		30 USCI	1 February 1865
Johnson, William		25 USCI	4 May 1865
Jones, David		43 USCI	15 March 1865
Jones, George		3 USCArt	about 1 August 1865
Jones, William		23 USCI	19 August 1864
King, George T.		unassigned	27 December 1898
Lamb, Hiram		28 USCI	11 November 1864
Lane, David	Sgt.	28 USCI	20 December 1864
Lane, Edward		135 USCI	1 July 1864
Larue, George		31 USCI	1 March 1865
Lawfrey, Lucas		29 USCI	14 December 1864
Lewis, Charles		23 USCI	28 October 1865
Lincoln, Perry		28 USCI	9 November 1864
Lingus, James		39 USCI	17 May 1864
Low, King		135 USCI	5 July 1865
Lysle, Peter		135 USCI	about 27 August 1865
Mapp, Levi		10 USCI	28 January 1865
Marchshall, Charles J.		31 USCI	2 October 1864
Mason, Caleb		39 USCI	20 December 1864
Mason, Daniel		1 USCI	14 August 1891
Mason, George	Sgt.	135 USCI	about 6 June 1865
Mason, William		28 USCI	1 November 1864
Mathews, Daniel		19 USCI	10 August 1864
Mathews, William		4 USCI	17 October 1865
Mattis, Alfred		18 USCI	about 6 June 1865
Manwell (Marver), Charles		27 USCI	21 January 1865
Maxwell, Carter		27 USCI	9 November 1864
McCall, Gideon	Cpl.	31 USCI	8 October 1864
McFarren, Albert	Cpl.	116 USCI	11 June 1865
McGill, Albert	Cpl.	28 USCI	13 August 1864
McGrundy, William		29 USCI	9 July 1864
McNeill, Ramsey		135 USCI	9 June 1865
Mickel, Dudley	Cpl.	135 USCI	18 May 1865
Miller, Benjamin		30 USCI	22 January 1865
Miller, Larkin		28 USCI	26 December 1864
Molson, Samuel		43 USCI	31 August 1864
Montgomery, Samuel		2 USCI	16 November 1902
Moore, Simeon		43 USCI	16 May 1864
Morrison, James		107 USCI	3 July 1866
Morton, Henry		56 MassI	9 January 1865
Mullen, Israel		43 USCI	17 September 1864

Name	Rank	Regiment	Date of Death
Murphy, Shedrick		23 USCI	26 December 1864
Murray, James		29 USCI	8 September 1921
Nance, Charles		27 USCI	12 January 1864
Nash, Henry		19 USCI	14 November 1864
Neal, James		23 USCI	3 May 1865
Neely, Isaac		8 USC Art	27 Apr 1865
Nelson, Thomas		23 USCI	22 August 1864
Nicholas, Columbus		35 USCI	about 21 January 1865
Nicholson, John		4 USCI	22 August 1865
Notts, Richard		43 USCI	31 October 1864
Owens, Charles	Sgt.	107 USCI	22 March 1866
Pannell, Frank	Sgt.	1 USCI	10 October 1864
Parker, Franklin		135 USCI	7 June 1865
Parker, Lewis		28 USCI	26 August 1864
Parker, Littleton		10 USCI	7 August 1864
Parmer, George		27 USCI	10 February 1865
Parren, Abram		28 USCI	1 January 1865
Patterson, Alexander		23 USCI	8 August 1864
Pattison, John		135 USCI	11 June 1865
Paul, Isaac F.	Cpl.	27 USCI	20 November 1864
Payne, James		31 USCI	18 January 1865
Percy, Leonard		23 USCI	1 August 1864
Peter, Joseph		29 USCI	12 March 1865
Peterson, Alexander		31 USCI	6 August 1864
Peterson, James H.		31 USCI	16 September 1864
Phillips, James R.		29 USCI	24 May 1864
Plato, William		4 USCI	7 November 1865
Posey, Eben	Cpl.	30 USCI	9 November 1864
Potter, Nicholas		39 USCI	20 November 1864
Powell, Edward		136 USCI	15 July 1911
Poyle, John T.		19 USCI	Unknown
Quillar, Elias H.	Sgt.	31 USCI	11 December 1864
Ratcliff, Linton		8 USC Art	5 June 1865
Ray, Minard	Cpl.	43 USCI	28 November 1864
Roy, Henry		23 USCI	30 June 1864
Reddon, Abraham		28 USCI	17 June 1865
Reed, David		31 USCI	12 February 1865
Rider, James Henry		31 USCI	29 November 1864
Ridgeway, Isaac		107 USCI	15 August 1866
Roberts, Harlan		31 USCT	25 June 1864
Roberts, Sherman		31 USCI	25 June 1864
Robins, Willis		28 USCI	1 June 1864
Shepherd, Miles		29 ConnCI	6 November 1864
Shirley, William		28 USCI	29 June 1864
Short, Michael		19 USCI	18 December 1864
Short, William		19 USCI	22 August 1864
Smith, Henry		23 USCI	3 September 1864
Smith, James		39 USCI	23 June 1864
Smith, John		29 USCI	7 December 1865
Smith, Nelson		27 USCI	2 November 1864
Spriggs, George		19 USCI	1 December 1864
Stanton, Franklin		135 USCI	about 10 August 1865
Stephens, George		19 USCI	5 November 1864
Stephens, James		107 USCI	11 August 1866

Name	Rank	Regiment	Date of Death
Stephens, Mason		39 USCI	14 February 1865
Stewart, Lawrence		19 USCI	17 August 1864
Stowers, Samuel		117 USCI	20 September 1865
Stop, Henry		27 USCI	10 December 1864
Sutton, James		unknown	9 Apr 1865
Thomas, Daniel		23 USCI	31 December 1864
Thomas, Ridson		30 USCI	10 May 1865
Thompson, George W.	Cpl.	30 USCI	9 December 1864
Thompson, John		135 USCI	12 September 1865
Thompson, Robert		39 USCI	4 February 1865
Thompson, William H.		19 USCI	18 August 1864
Thornhill, Reuben		29 USCI	2 August 1864
Tollison, John		unassigned	19 April 1895
Trout, Toby		31 USCI	15 April 1865
Tue, James		30 USCI	21 August 1864
Turner, Alexander		39 USCI	19 August 1864
Tyler, Henry		6 USCI	1 March 1911
Underwood, Eugene		115 USCI	1 September 1865
Vinegar, George W.		16 USCI	10 May 1865
Wade, Frank		27 USCI	25 December 1864
Walker, Robert		23 USCI	22 August 1864
Washington, Beverly		1 USCI	29 August 1891
Watkins, Henry (1)		28 USCI	24 November 1864
Watkins, Henry (2)		39 USCI	16 August 1864
Watson, Henry		23 USCI	25 August 1864
Watts, Emery		39 USCI	19 June 1865
Weaver, Richard		38 USCI	13 August 1905
White, George		31 USCI	9 December 1864
White, Samuel	Sgt.	29 USCI	5 September 1864
Whiting, Alfred	Sgt.	54 MassCI	26 June 1865
Wilkinson, James Henry		39 USCI	9 August 1864
Williams, Elias		28 USCI	2 May 1865
Williams, James		29 USCI	23 August 1864
Williams, Robert		19 USCI	28 June 1864
Willis, John H.		23 USCI	8 May 1865
Wilson, Joseph H.		5 MassCCav	22 March 1864
Wilson, Perry		30 USCI	28 December 1864
Wilson, Reuben		29 USCI	30 August 1864
Wilson, Samuel		27 USCI	20 December 1864
Wood, William		39 USCI	9 January 1865
Woolford, John		19 USCI	10 August 1864
Wright, Stephen H.		39 USCI	29 June 1864
York, James		39 USCI	14 November 1864
Young, Samuel		39 USCI	6 December 1864
Other black soldiers, most of whom did not serve in the Civil War:			
Daniels, Abraham		no record	unknown
Doleman, Herbert		10 USCav, d.	24 November 1912, Spanish-American War
Foster, George		10 USCav, d.	16 May 1893, in Civil War with 1st USCI
Foster, Lorenzo	Cpl.	10 USCav, d.	9 February 1903
Stevenson, John T.		10 USCav, d.	31 January 1912



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Footnotes

1. Report, Provost Marshal General's Bureau to Secretary of War, 17 March 1866, *A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies in the War of the Rebellion*, 127 vols. (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1880-1902) (hereafter cited as *ORA*), ser. 3, vol. 5: 654; Francis A. Lord, *They Fought for the Union* (New York: Bonanza Books, 1960), 2-5.

2. *ORA*, ser. 3, vol. 5: 654.

3. *Ibid.*; James D. Richardson, ed., *A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents* (New York: Bureau of National Literature, 1897), 7:3297-99, 3358-60; compensation for slave owners and colonization provisions were dropped in the final Emancipation Proclamation.

4. *ORA*, ser. 3, vol. 5: 660-61.

5. *Ibid.*, 215-16, 660-61. The number of regiments was adjusted for various reasons during the war. Twenty-seven regiments of infantry and one of heavy artillery were consolidated with other regiments, *ibid.*, 139.

6. *Ibid.*, 661.

7. *Ibid.*, 626-29; Emory Upton, *The Military Policy of the United States* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1911), 440-43.

8. *ORA*, ser. 3, vol. 5: 657-60.

9. *Ibid.*, 138.

10. *Ibid.*, 662.

11. *Ibid.*

12. *Ibid.*, 1030; Noah A. Trudeau, *Like Men of War: Black Troops in the Civil War, 1862-1865* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1998), 466, Trudeau finds 2,870 succumbed to wounds.

13. George W. Adams, "Caring for the Men: Hospitals, Medicines, Doctors, and Do-Gooders," William C. Davis and Bell I. Wiley, ed. *Photographic History of the Civil War*, 2 vols. (reprint, 1983-84; New York: Black Dog & Leventhal, 1994), 236-38; William Howell Reed, *The Heroic Story of the United States Sanitary Commission, 1861-1865* (Boston: G. H. Ellis Co., 1910), 6-10.

14. Edward A. Miller Jr., "Angel of Light: Helen L. Gilson, Army Nurse," *Civil War History* 43 (March 1997), 33-34.

15. Adams, "Caring for the Men," 234-35, 237.

16. Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army from Its Organization, September 29, 1789, to March 2, 1903*, 2 vols. (1903; reprint, Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1965), 1: 892, 212.

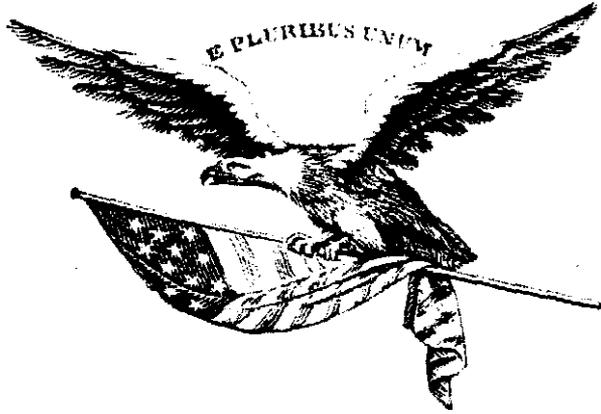
17. Alexandria, Field Records of Hospitals, 1841-

- 1912, Record Group 94, Records of the Office of the Adjutant General, The National Archives, Washington, D.C.; *Alexandria Gazette*, 20 July 1864; James H. Barber, *Alexandria in the Civil War* (Lynchburg: H. E. Howard, Inc., 1988), 95; William B. Hurd, *Alexandria, Virginia, 1861-1865* (Alexandria: Fort Ward Museum, 1970), 9; Claremont General Hospital in the Daingerfield house in the 200 block of South Washington Street, not to be confused with Clermont which had some black soldier patients in mid-1864.
18. Field Records of Hospitals, NA; the Washington Street facility was also used as a barracks for convalescents and soldiers awaiting orders, *Papers of Capt. Rufus D. Pettit, Inspector of Alexandria Prisons*, Lloyd House, Alexandria Public Library.
19. *Alexandria Gazette*, 4 March 1864; Wesley E. Pippenger, *Alexandria, Virginia, Death Records, 1863-1896 (The Gladwin Record)*, (Westminster, Maryland: Family Line Publications, 1995), 9-10; Pamela J. Cressey, "Summary of Research Findings, Freedmen's Cemetery," April 1997, 4-6.
20. Cooley, *Compiled (Military) Service Records*, RG 94, NA, (hereafter CMSR, NA); 5 May 1864 entry, *Wilbur Diary*, microfilm, Lloyd House, Alexandria Library, original in Quaker Collection, Haverford College Library, Pennsylvania.
21. 13 April 1864 entry, *Wilbur Diary*.
22. *Ibid.*, 17 May; 9, 14, 20, 22, 23, and 28 June; and 13 July 1864.
23. *Ibid.*, 26 and 27 December 1864; the soldiers buried on 27 December, the last in the Contraband cemetery, were likely Pvts. Frank Wade (plot 123) and Shedrick Murphy (plot 124), CMSR, NA.
24. Heitman, *Historical Register*, 1: 624, Lee was quartermaster at the Alexandria depot from November 1862 to July 1864; he joined the regular army after the war and retired a colonel and assistant quartermaster general in 1897; Letter, Lee to Maj. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, 28 December 1864, *General Correspondence and Reports relating to National and Post Cemeteries*, RG 576, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, NA.
25. Lee's 28 December 1864 letter; petition from L'Overture General Hospital to Bentley, 27 December 1864, to which are attached signature sheets, *Quartermaster General Correspondence*, RG 92, NA.
26. 29 and 30 December; and 10, 15, 16, 17, 20, and 28 January 1865 entries, *Wilbur Diary*; Heitman, *Historical Register*, 1: 417; Ferree was chaplain of the Eleventh Illinois Infantry for the first eight months of the war, resigned, and was appointed a hospital chaplain of volunteers in July 1862. He was mustered out in March 1866.
27. Davis and Morton, CMSR, NA; cemetery records.
28. Jacobs, CMSR and pension record, NA.
29. CMSR, NA.
30. William Henry Glasson, *Federal Military Pensions in the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1918), 124, 234.
31. *Ibid.*, 234-36, 244.
32. Pension records for individual soldiers are in *Case Files of Approved Veterans Who Served in the Army and Navy Mainly in the Civil War and the War With Spain, 1861-1934*, Civil War and Later Pension Files, Records of the Veterans Administration (now Department of Veterans Affairs), RG 15, NA. An individual soldier's file contains all applications made by him and his dependent wife, children, and other relatives. Files are indexed on microfilm by soldiers' names and also by companies in regiments. A file always has an application number or numbers and will have a certificate number for each approved application.

33. **Alexandria National Cemetery Records;** U.S. Army Quartermaster General, *Roll of Honor: Names of Soldiers, Victims of the Rebellion, Buried in the National Cemetery at Alexandria, Virginia* (Washington: US. Government Printing Office, 1966), 64-69.

34. Biographical sketches of each of the black soldiers in the National Cemetery are filed in the office of the Alexandria Archaeologist, 105 N. Union Street.

35. Alexandria City Council proclamations, 10 June 1997 and 12 May 1998.



About the Author

Edward A. Miller Jr. received an M.A. and a PhD in American history from the University of Denver and a B.A. in history from the Virginia Military Institute. A career Air Force officer, he taught military, modern Far East and American history as an assistant professor at the Air Force Academy. Following his military service, Miller directed the Center for Defense Information, a defense policy study organization. He served on Capitol Hill as Legislative Aid to Senators Les Aspin and Gary Hart. At the Pentagon, he was special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. He has also managed environmental science and computer consulting operations. His books, *Gullah Statesman: Robert Smalls from Slavery to Congress, 1839-1915* (published in 1995); *Lincoln's Abolitionist General: The Biography of David Hunter* (1997); and *The Black Civil War Soldiers of Illinois: The Story of the Twenty-ninth U.S. Colored Infantry* (1998), were published by the University of South Carolina Press. Mr. Miller is researching and writing on several Civil War subjects. He also is completing a study of the American prisoners of war held in Ireland during the American Revolution. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

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